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JOHN GEORGE JACK. 1861-1949.

With portrait.

ON MAY 20, John George Jack, Assistant Professor of Dendrology, *Emeritus*, at the Arnold Arboretum, died at the age of eighty-eight years at his home, "Folly Farm," in East Walpole. He had been confined to his bed since August of the preceding year, having broken his hip while working in his orchard.

John George Jack was born in Chateauguay, Quebec, Canada, on April 15, 1861. His mother, Mrs. Annie L. Jack, originally a school-teacher, was a well-known horticulturist. She produced a series of articles under the title of "Garden Talks" and wrote a handbook on "The Canadian Garden." Undoubtedly his mother's influence was responsible for Professor Jack's early interest in horticulture. Although Professor Jack's formal education did not extend beyond high school he acquired a thorough knowledge of plants from practical experience and long study. He was outstanding as a field worker in detecting variations and species-hybrids.

In 1886, Professor Jack first came to the Arnold Arboretum to work and study under Professor C. S. Sargent and in 1891 he was appointed Lecturer at the Arnold Arboretum. He served as Instructor in Forestry at Harvard from 1903 to 1908, and as Lecturer in Forestry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1899 to 1908. He was made an Assistant Professor of Dendrology in 1908. Although Professor Jack spent most of his time at the Arnold Arboretum where he was a staff member from 1891 until he was retired in 1935, he was also on the staff both of the Bussey Institution and the Harvard Forest.

Even though most of Professor Jack's time was spent on the Arnold Arboretum grounds checking identifications of the trees and shrubs, lecturing to field classes, and supervising the plantings, he made many collecting trips to various parts of the world. The early trips were financed by funds obtained by Professor Jack himself from outside sources since at first the Arnold Arboretum had little money for exploration and Professor Jack's salary was only \$500.00 per year. In 1891 he visited the botanic gardens and nurseries in France, Germany, Italy, Denmark and

England and in 1904 with Professor Alfred Rehder he made extensive collections in the western United States and Canada. In 1905 he went to Japan, Korea and China, where he studied both native and cultivated ornamental plants sending seeds and cuttings back to the Arnold Arboretum. Nearly every year from 1926 to 1936 Professor Jack went to the Atkins Botanical Garden in Cuba for a few months where he worked with the collections in the garden and collected native species in the vicinity of Soledad.

In 1907 Professor Jack married Cerise Emily Agnes Carmen, daughter of Elbert S. Carmen, who published the "Rural New Yorker." They adopted two children. Mrs. Jack died in 1935. Their daughter, Betty Wirth, and her husband lived with Professor Jack in his later years at "Folly Farm" in East Walpole.

Professor Jack was especially interested in trees, but like all old-time naturalists his interests covered the entire range of biology. His knowledge of plants, his spontaneous enthusiasm and sincerity, made him an outstanding teacher of field classes. He made many friends for himself and for the Arnold Arboretum.

Taxonomists are a hardy race, but few could keep up with Professor Jack. While spending a month with him at the Atkins Garden in 1936, I discovered that although he was 75 years old Professor Jack was up at 6 A.M., worked all day, often traveling into the surrounding country on horseback, and continued to work until 11 or 12 o'clock at night. Later I visited him at his farm on his 85th birthday where I found him spraying his orchard. He complained that he couldn't work after supper as formerly when he was younger.

Professor Jack published several hundred papers beginning in 1888. Most of these were notes on various plants grown in the Arnold Arboretum and descriptions of field work. His earlier contributions were published in "Garden and Forest" and in various horticultural journals. Many of his later publications appeared in the *Bulletin of Popular Information* published by the Arnold Arboretum.

In recognition of his work in taxonomy the following species were named for Professor Jack: —

- Sinojackia* Hu, a new genus with two species from China.
- Alnus Jackii* Hu (= *A. trabeculosa* Hand.-Mazz.).
- × *Amelasorbus Jackii* Rehd.
- × *Betula Jackii* Schneid.
- Crataegus Jackii* Sarg.
- Juniperus communis* var. *Jackii* Rehd.
- × *Populus Jackii* Sarg.
- × *Quercus Jackiana* Schneid.
- Rosa Maximowiczii* var. *Jackii* (Rehd.) Rehd. (*R. Jackii* Rehd.).
- × *Sorbaronia Jackii* Rehd. (*Pyrus Jackii* [Rehd.] Fernald).
- × *Viburnum Jackii* Rehd.

The hybrids (×) were discovered by Professor Jack.

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITINGS OF JOHN GEORGE JACK.

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Professor Jack was a member of the Society of Foresters, Botanical Society of America, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, American Academy, Boston Society of Natural History, and Deutsche Dendrologische Gesellschaft.

With the passing of Professor Jack, the era of the old-time naturalist is drawing to a close. Largely self taught, with enthusiastic interest in all phases of nature, and with apparently unlimited energy, these early botanists made the contact between botanical science and the horticultural public which led to the establishment and maintenance of so many of our botanic gardens and parks.

KARL SAX